

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 AF-04 L-02 ARA-10

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 IO-03 PRS-01 PA-01

USIA-04 SCA-01 SCS-01 DODE-00 EURE-00 SAM-01 DRC-01

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P R 111533Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 488

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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LIMDIS

ROME FOR ILLING

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, VT, CU, PO

SUBJ: EXPECTED RELEASE OF CUBAN PRISONER PERALTA

1. ON CONCLUSION BRIEF LISBON VISIT BY CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER RAUL ROA (SEPT. 9-10) TWO LISBON AFTERNOON DAILIES REPORTED THAT CUBAN PRISONER PERALTA'S RELEASE IMMINENT. DIARIO DE LISBOA CLAIMED THAT NEWS OF RELEASE, FIRST DIVULGED BY ROA UPON ARRIVAL AT AIRPORT, WAS CONFIRMED BY FOREIGN MINISTER SOARES. A CAPITAL DID NOT ATTRIBUTE CONFIRMATION, WHICH WAS GIVEN IN TERMS OF "AN EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS" IN REPUBLIC OF GUINEA-BISSAU.

2. DCM SPOKE WITH DR. NUNES BARATA, PERSONAL DIPLOMATIC AIDE IN PRESIDENT'S CIVIL CABINET, EVENING SEPTEMBER 10. BARATA STATED THAT NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS EXAGGERATED

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IMMINENCE OF RELEASE; HOWEVER, HE EXPECTED PERALTA

TO REGAIN FREEDOM WITHIN SHORT PERIOD, PERHAPS ONLY
FEW MORE DAYS. UN AMBASSADOR VEIGA SIMAO TOLD AMBASSADOR SEPT. 11.
HE NOT FULLY CONVERSANT WITH SITUATION BUT FELT THAT
PERALTA RELEASE MAY BE CONSIDERED BY MILITARY
AUTHORITIES AS PART OF GUINEA-BISSAU PRISONER EXCHANGE.

3. DIARIO DE LISBOA ARTICLE RECALLED PERALTA'S
REFUSAL TO ACCEPT AMNESTY AS PART OF AN EXCHANGE "FOR
SOMEONE, WHOEVER HE MIGHT BE." ONLY OTHER REFERENCE
(VERY INDIRECT) TO POSSIBLE US INTEREST IN CASE WAS
COMMENT, IN SAME ARTICLE, THAT PERALTA CASE WAS CAUSE
FOR STREET DEMONSTRATIONS (IN MAY) WHICH EVIDENTLY "DID
NOT HELP IN ANY WAY THE PROCESS OF LIBERATION."

4. EMBASSY ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN FURTHER DETAILS FROM
ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF COSTA GOME WHO, WE UNDERSTAND,
NOW HAS JURISDICTION OVER MATTER. HOWEVER, PROSPECTS FOR
SECURING PERALTA EXCHANGE FOR LUNT NOW SEEM VERY DIM.
SCOTT

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